Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A plant for thermally conditioning ~~device for~~ moulded plastic items ~~(P)~~ for use in blow mould plants comprising:
- a chain or other continuous conveying device ~~(2)~~ forming a spiral-type path suitable for conveying at least one plastic item ~~(P)~~;
- ~~at least a first thermal conditioning stage comprising~~ at least one duct ~~(6, 7)~~ through which said at least one plastic item ~~(P)~~ can be conveyed and that is crossed by a length of said chain or other continuous conveying device ~~(2)~~ and is suitable for carrying out at least a first thermal conditioning stage on ~~thermally conditioning by heating and/or cooling~~ said at least one plastic item ~~(P)~~;
wherein said chain or other continuous conveying device ~~(P) follows~~ defines a path comprising ~~the sections of~~ a feeding section for feeding said at least one plastic item through said at least a first thermal conditioning stage, ~~of~~ a removing section for removing said at least one plastic item from said at least a first ~~heating~~ thermal conditioning stage for a predetermined amount of time in order to redistribute the temperature inside said at least one plastic item ~~(P)~~ with a predetermined degree of uniformity, and ~~of~~ a refeeding section for refeeding said at least one plastic item into said at least a first thermal conditioning stage,
~~characterised in that~~ wherein said at least one duct ~~(6, 7)~~ is crossed by at least two sections, of said chain or other continuous conveying device ~~(2)~~, placed side by side, wherein said at least two sections belong each to a different spiral ~~(SP1, SP2, SP3)~~ of said chain or other continuous conveying device ~~(2)~~.

2. (Currently amended) A plant as claimed in claim 1 comprising at least a heating element suitable for heating by radiation ~~many of said~~ plastic items arranged on at least two sections of said chain, each belonging to a different spiral ~~(SP1, SP2, SP3)~~ of said chain, when said plastic items ~~(P)~~ pass side by side in at least one of said ducts ~~(6, 7)~~.

3. (Currently amended) A plant as claimed in claim 2 wherein said chain or other continuous conveying device ~~(2)~~ is suitable for feeding said at least one plastic item ~~(P)~~ to be thermally conditioned through said first and a second thermal conditioning stages.

4. (Currently amended) A plant as claimed in ~~one or more~~ claims 2, ~~from 3 to 5~~ wherein said spirals ~~(SP1, SP2, SP3)~~ are substantially placed one inside the other.

5. (Currently amended) A plant as claimed in ~~one or more~~ claims ~~3~~, ~~from 3 to 6~~ wherein said chain or other continuous conveying device ~~(2)~~ forms a closed path.

6. (Currently amended) A plant as claimed in claim 5 ~~7~~ wherein said chain or other continuous conveying device ~~(2)~~ is articulated in order to be able to bend in the three spatial dimensions and forms essentially a non planar path.

7. (Currently amended) A plant as claimed in ~~one or more claims from 1 to~~ claim 6 wherein the at least one plastic item is ~~represents~~ a plurality of preforms ~~(P)~~ and said at least two chain sections are equipped with a plurality of fastenings suitable for housing a plurality of preforms ~~(P)~~, and said at least two sections pass side by side through said at least one duct whereby the preforms are arranged in an essentially quincunx layout.

8. (New) A plant as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first and second thermal conditioning stages can be heating or cooling stages.

~~8.~~ 9. (Currently amended) A plant as claimed in ~~one or more claims from 1 to 7~~ claim 8, wherein the plant comprises ~~said first and second stages of thermal conditioning take place in~~ one or more heating furnaces ~~(1)~~ suitable for heating said preforms ~~(P)~~ during said first and second thermal conditioning stages .

~~9.~~ 10. (Currently amended) A plant as claimed in ~~one or more claims from 1 to 8~~ claim 9, wherein the plant comprises ~~said first and second thermal conditioning stages both take place in~~ cooling stations suitable for cooling said at least one plastic item, during said first and second thermal conditioning stages, more than would result from placing said at least one plastic item in the environment outside said first and second thermal

conditioning stages.

~~10.~~ 11. (Currently amended) A plant as claimed in ~~one or more claims from 1 to~~ claim 9 comprising a heating furnace where said first and second thermal conditioning ~~heating~~ stages both take place in said furnace.

~~11.~~ 12. (Currently amended) A plant as claimed in ~~one or more claims from 1 to~~ claim 10 comprising a cooling ~~unit~~ station and where said first and second thermal conditioning stages both take place in said cooling ~~unit~~ station.